

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 01124 111824Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----119286 111834Z /50

O 111819Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4111
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 01124

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, EG, XF, IS
SUBJECT: BEGIN STATEMENT ON SETTLEMENTS
REF: (A) TEL AVIV 391, (B) STATE 6680

1. WHEN FLYING TO ASWAN THIS MORNING, I GAVE VP MUBARAK THE TEXT OF BEING STATEMENT ON SETTLEMENTS IN RESPONSE TO HIS EARLIER REQUEST. IN DOING SO, I POINTED OUT THAT BEGIN CLAIM THAT ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN SINAI ARE SUPPORTED BY USG IS NOT CORRECT. AS HE KNEW, USG HAS NOT ENDORSED THIS OR ANY OTHER PART OF BEGIN'S PROPOSALS AND, AS HE ALSO KNEW, WE HAVE FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED USG DISAPPROVAL OF AN OPPOSITION TO ESTABLISHMENT OF ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.
2. I ADDED THAT BEGIN HAD ASKED THAT WE MAKE SURE MUBARAK WAS CLEAR ON WHAT BEGIN HAD NOT SAID OR MEANT TO SAY. TOLD MUBARAK OF RADIO REPORTS FROM CAIRO WHICH BEGIN SAYS HE HEARD THAT HAD DISTORTED HIS COMMENT BY SUGGESTING THAT UNLESS EGYPTIANS ACCEPT ISRAELI PROPOSAL, ISRAELIS WILL CANCEL THEIR PEACE OFFER.
3. MUBARAK SAID HE HAD NOT HEARD ANY SUCH CAIRO RADIO REPORT. WHAT CONCERNS EGYPTIANS, ACCORDING MUBARAK, IS

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THREAT TO RENEGE ON BEGIN'S EARLIER AGREEMENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY IN SINAI IF RETENTION OF ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO GOE. THIS, MUBARAK INSISTED, GOE CANNOT ACCEPT. HE THEN WENT THROUGH THE CUSTOMARY LITANY OF EGYPTIAN POINTS: ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI IS NOT A CONCESSION, IT IS A REQUIREMENT OF U.N. RESOLUTION 242; THE ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS AND THE

ISRAELI AIRDROMES IN SINAI MUST BE WITHDRAWN AS PART OF THE PEACE ARRANGEMENTS; THEIR CONTINUED PRESENCE IN SINAI IS CONTRARY TO INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY CONDEMNED BY THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNITED STATES AND OTHERS.

4. SUBSEQUENTLY, WHEN I MET WITH SADAT, THE PRESIDENT SAID MUBARAK HAD SHOWN HIM THE BEGIN STATEMENT. I AGAIN WENT THROUGH THE SAME EXPLANATION THAT I HAD GIVEN TO MUBARAK. SADAT, TOO, INSISTED THERE IS NO MISINTERPRETATION OF BEGIN'S STATEMENT. THE ISSUE WAS BEGIN'S THREAT TO RENEGE ON HIS INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY COMMITMENT. THE BEGIN STATEMENT, SADAT SAID FORCEFULLY, IS "TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO US".

5. I SAID THAT WE UNDERSTOOD THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS, BUT SUGGESTED THAT RATHER THAN MAKE A COUNTERSTATEMENT WHICH WOULD ONLY SERVE TO KEEP THIS ISSUE ALIVE, IT OUGHT TO BE LOW-KEYED. SADAT AGREED AND NOTED HE HAD DONE JUST THAT DURING HIS JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH THE SHAH OF IRAN. IN DOING SO, HOWEVER, HE DID NOT WANT THE ISRAELIS TO BE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT HE ACCEPTS BEGIN'S CONCEPT. WE SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT HE DOES NOT.

6. WHILE WAITING TO MET WITH SADAT, PRESS ASKED IF I
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WAS BRINGING BEGIN TEXT WHICH MUBARAK HAD EARLIER PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED WAS BEING REQUESTED THROUGH US. TOLD PRESS I HAD GIVEN IT EARLIER IN THE DAY TO MUBARAK. MUBARAK, WHEN ASKED ABOUT IT, SIMPLY SAID HE IS STUDYING TEXT AND REFUSED MAKE ANY FURTHER COMMENT ABOUT IT.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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